Financial and Social Impact

- 3,970 consumer loans extended worth $41,494,366 since 1998, helping Pennsylvanians purchase the assistive technology they want and need to live in their own homes, go to work and school, play, and participate in the community.

- 9,818 people have received information and assistance about funding resources for assistive technology since 2010.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) is a statewide nonprofit organization and a state accredited and federally certified community development financial institution (CDFI). PATF helps Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older adults fund assistive technology (AT) to improve the quality of their lives. AT is any device that helps a person with a disability do the things they want to do, and includes hearing aids, smart home technology, adapted vehicles, home modifications, and much more.

PATF serves Pennsylvanians of all ages, all income levels, and all disabilities and health conditions, and does not charge fees for any of its services. PATF provides flexible, low-cost, consumer loans (0% or 3.75% interest) for the purchase of AT. PATF also provides information and assistance to help people identify and secure additional or alternative funding for AT. Finally, PATF provides all applicants with financial education and strongly promotes financial education for the disability community.

CDFI Story – Tom, Freelance Musician, Pennsylvania

Tom works full-time as a freelance musician and has been blind since he was a child. A few years ago, he experienced total equipment failure. “I could not compete with the other sighted producers, or for that matter, the other blind producers.” But Tom couldn’t afford all the equipment he needed. An acquaintance suggested he contact PATF, and he said it was like “rubbing the lamp!” Tom received a low-interest loan to purchase a new computer, a screen reader, and specialized recording software. “With this new setup, PATF gave me another chance in life,” Tom shared.

Contact

1004 West 9th Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Name: Susan Tachau, CEO
Phone: 484.674.0506
Fax: 484.674.0510
Email: stachau@patf.us

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